Schemes Launched on the World Environment Day to Protect Endangered Species

2607. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what specific schemes, programmes and projects were launched on the World Environment Day, particularly to protect the endangered species of animals, including the wild cats and tigers; and

(b) whether Government took stock of the success or otherwise of the drive to protect and promote the tigers, lions and other wild life, over the past five years, if so, the details in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) On the occasion of the World Environment Day, a special programme for conservation of Marine turtles has been decided to be launched steps to strengthen the ongoing conservation measures for all other endangered species of wild animals would also be taken.

(b) The government is constantly monitoring the progress of implementation of various schemes/ projects for protection and conservation of tiger, lions and other wildlife. Census at regular intervals is also being conducted for major species in order to ascertain their status. The other steps being taken by the government include providing assistance to the States for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries; assistance to States for ecodevelopment programmes to reduce the pressure on protected areas, controlling poaching and illegal trade of wildlife through interdepartmental co-ordination, providing anti poaching infrastructure in specified areas and providing legal protection against hunting and commerical exploitation under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Import of Old Ships for Scrapping

2608. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old ships imported by India for scrapping annually and the level of pollution caused as a result thereof;

(b) whether CPCB has issued any guidelines to stop import of those old ships and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these guidelines are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) On an average, India imports about 300 old ships every year for breaking and recovery of steel. According to a study instituted by the Ministry of Steel on the suggestion by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), through Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants Limited (MECON), ships procured for breaking contain toxic chemicals like lead, polychlorinated biphenyls, asbestos, etc., in paints/components. The study revealed that the water pollutants generated during ship-breaking results in some changes in water quality and marine eco-system, especially in the inter-tidal zone. The impact on marine life can be minimised through environmental planning by disposal of solid waste, oil and oil wastes, house keeping, green belt development and post-project environmental monitoring. The study has established that there is no significant hazard to the environment through ship breaking. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued environmental guidelines for ship breaking industries and circulated to the State Pollution Control Boards for ensuring environmental management plans for disposal of solid waste, oil and oil sludge and other wastes to prevent damage to the environment from ship-breaking activity. The status of implementation is monitored by CPCB on regular basis.